



**Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program
Implementation Plan**

2023 Annual Implementation Plan

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

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I. Introduction

The Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) is the annual operating plan conducted by the Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC), while performing its responsibilities and duties as described in the *Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (QCMEP). NPCC conducts QCMEP activities in accordance with the *Amended and Restated Agreement on the Implementation of the Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program* (QCMEP Agreement).

The Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise (ERO Enterprise) consists of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), NPCC, and other Regional Entities. The ERO Enterprise developed one ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan (ERO Enterprise IP). NPCC developed the Québec Implementation Plan using the same approach and concepts that are used during the development of the ERO Enterprise IP. This Implementation Plan represents NPCC's high-level priorities for the 2023 QCMEP. However, NPCC will adapt monitoring activities for each registered entity based on its unique characteristics. Registered entities are responsible for compliance with all requirements applicable to their registered functions.

During the implementation year, NPCC, with approval from the Régie, may update the Québec Implementation Plan. Updates could be needed to reflect changes to compliance monitoring processes, major events, Régie orders, or other developments. Any updates to the Québec Implementation Plan will be communicated to registered entities and NERC, if applicable.

II. Overview of Framework

The ERO Enterprise uses the Risk-based Compliance Oversight Framework (Framework) to identify both ERO Enterprise-wide risks to reliability and mitigating factors that may reduce or eliminate a specific risk to reliability. The ERO Enterprise accomplishes this by using the risk element development process. As such, the ERO Enterprise identifies risk elements using data including, but not limited to: compliance findings; event analysis experience; data analysis; and the expert judgment of ERO Enterprise staff, committees, and subcommittees (e.g., NERC Reliability Issues Steering Committee). Reviewed publications include the Reliability Issues Steering Committee's (RISC) report,¹ the State of Reliability Report,² the Long-Term Reliability Assessment,³ publications from the RISC, special assessments, the ERO Enterprise Strategic Plan, and ERO Event Analysis Process insights. The ERO Enterprise uses these risk elements to identify and prioritize interconnection and continent-wide risks to reliability. These risks identified by the ERO Enterprise are used by NPCC to develop the list of actively monitored Reliability Standards and requirements and to focus compliance monitoring and enforcement activities in Québec.

The ERO Enterprise reviewed and reassessed the 2022 risk elements to determine applicability for 2023. Those areas of focus identified as ERO Enterprise IP in Table 2 below are a result of this

¹ [2021 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report](#)

² [2022 State of Reliability - An Assessment of 2022 Bulk Power System Performance](#)

³ [2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, December 2021](#)

reassessment. NPCC also considered Québec risks, specific circumstances, and operational characteristics associated with registered entities in Québec for 2023. NPCC identified additional areas of focus for the Québec Region, which are identified as Québec specific in Table 2.

Although the Implementation Plan identifies NERC Reliability Standards and Requirements to be considered for focused QCMEP activities, NPCC will use the Framework and other risk-based processes, including Inherent Risk Assessments (IRAs), to develop an informed list of NERC Reliability Standards and Requirements specific to the risk a registered entity poses to the reliability of the electric power transmission system. The Implementation Plan and the list of actively monitored Reliability Standards and requirements in Québec are not intended to be a representation of “important” Reliability Standards requirements; rather, they are intended to reflect NPCC’s prioritization, based on various inputs (such as collected data), within the QCMEP and to communicate to registered entities to bring focus within their operations to address each prioritized risk.

A. Inherent Risk Assessment

NPCC will continue to perform an IRA of registered entities to categorize the potential risks posed to the reliability of the electric power transmission system. An IRA is performed by NPCC for all registered entities that have been considered for an audit in the annual implementation plan. The IRA’s objective is to identify additional areas of focus and determine the registered entity’s final compliance monitoring scope and oversight plan. An IRA considers entity-specific risk factors such as assets, systems, geography, interconnectivity, prior compliance history, and overall unique entity composition when determining the compliance oversight plan for a registered entity. These risk factors are evaluated against the violation risk factors included in the Reliability Standard, and categorized as high, medium, and low. The risk factors ratings then serve to map to a proposed scope for monitoring purposes.

Where NPCC has minimal or no compliance monitoring history for a particular registered entity, NPCC is unlikely to remove NERC Reliability Standard requirements from an audit’s scope. The final set of Reliability Standards and requirements subject to compliance monitoring activities will be determined by a given registered entity’s IRA.

Approximately two (2) months prior to sending an audit notification, NPCC may request certain information from a registered entity to conduct the IRA. However, NPCC will use available information, if possible, to conduct the IRA without requiring pre-audit information from the registered entity.

B. Compliance Monitoring Tools

The Québec Implementation Plan documents the planned compliance monitoring tools (i.e., off-site or on-site audits, spot checks, or guided self-certifications). Reliability Coordinators, Balancing Authorities, and Transmission Operators will remain on an audit cycle of at least every three (3) years. The remaining registered entity functions are on an audit cycle of at least every six (6) years. The determination of the appropriate compliance monitoring tools is adjusted, as needed, within a given implementation year.

C. Enforcement of Reliability Standards

The QCMEP permits risk-based enforcement of Reliability Standards. If after NPCC’s evaluation, a non-compliance involves only a low-level risk for the reliability of electric power transmission and the registered entity takes steps to correct the non-compliance, NPCC may recommend the non-compliance be processed using the simplified identification, correction, and monitoring procedure. Under the simplified procedure, if the situation is corrected to the Régie’s satisfaction, no financial penalty or sanction is imposed on the registered entity. This process encourages prompt identification and correction of non-compliance issues by registered entities.

Penalties and sanctions are warranted for some moderate risk violations and most, if not all, serious or substantial risk violations. Penalty or sanction credits are typically offered when the registered entity offers valued behavior such as cooperation, accountability (affirmatively accepting responsibility for non-compliance), a culture of compliance, and self-identification of non-compliance.

III. Content of Annual Implementation Plan

A. Risk Elements

Table 1 presents the risk elements identified by the ERO Enterprise for 2023. The risk element development process considers data, reports, and publications that identify risks which translate into compliance monitoring. The 2023 risk elements are compared to the previous year’s risk elements.

Table 1: Comparison of Risk Elements	
2022 Risk Elements	2023 Risk Elements
Remote Connectivity	Remote Connectivity
Supply Chain	Supply Chain
Models Impacting Long-term and Operational Planning	Incident Response
Gaps in Program Execution	Stability Studies
Protection System Coordination	Inverter-Based Resources
Extreme Events	Facility Ratings
	Cold Weather Response

In addition to the Risk Elements identified by the ERO Enterprise, Gaps in Program Execution remains an additional Risk Element applicable in Québec in 2023, as set forth in Table 1.1 below. Important NERC Reliability Standard requirements in these areas continue to be identified in the actively monitored list.

Table 1.1: NPCC Regional Risk Element	
Regional Risk Element	Justification
Gaps in Program Execution	Internal controls need to be working and effective; and programs need to identify what other internal controls are needed. This is particularly relevant to critical infrastructure identification and protections, communications, modeling, training, and maintenance.

B. Reliability Standards Effective

The Régie adopts and makes effective NERC Reliability Standards and their Québec appendices (the Reliability Standards). The Reliability Standards effective in Québec and those to become effective in Québec are identified on the [Reliability Standards](#) webpage of the Régie’s website.

C. Québec Areas of Focus

NPCC compared the specific areas of focus that were developed in the 2023 ERO Enterprise IP, with the Reliability Standards that are effective to develop the specific areas of focus for the 2023 Québec Implementation Plan. Some of the Reliability Standards identified in the 2023 ERO IP are a different version than those in effect in Québec. However, the requirements identified are either identical or substantially similar and therefore are included in the Actively Monitored List for Québec.

Table 2 shows the list of Reliability Standards and requirements that will be actively monitored by NPCC in Québec for 2023.

Table 2: Actively Monitored Standards and Requirements for 2023				
Area of Focus Identification	Risk Element	Standard	Requirement(s)	Monitored Function(s)
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	CIP-002-5.1a	R1, R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	CIP-003-8	R1, R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	CIP-005-6 (Until 9/30/2023)	R1	DP, GOP, GO, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	CIP-005-7 (Effective 10/1/2023)	R1	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Remote Connectivity	CIP-005-6 (Until 9/30/2023)	R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Remote Connectivity	CIP-005-7 (Effective 10/1/2023)	R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
Québec Specific	Remote Connectivity	CIP-007-6	R1, R2, R4, R5	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Remote Connectivity	CIP-007-6	R3	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Incident Response	CIP-008-6	R1, R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO

Table 2: Actively Monitored Standards and Requirements for 2023				
ERO Enterprise IP	Supply Chain	CIP-010-3 (Until 9/30/2023)	R1, R4	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Supply Chain	CIP-010-4 (Effective 10/1/2023)	R1, R4	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Supply Chain	CIP-013-1 (Until 9/30/2023)	R1, R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Supply Chain	CIP-013-2 (Effective 10/1/2023)	R1, R2	DP, GOP, GO, TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Stability Studies	CIP-014-2	R1	TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	CIP-014-2	R4, R5	TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	COM-002-4	R3	GOP, DP
ERO Enterprise IP	Inverter-Based Resources	FAC-001-3	R1	TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Inverter-Based Resources	FAC-001-3	R2	GO
ERO Enterprise IP	Inverter-Based Resources	FAC-002-3	R1	PA, TP
ERO Enterprise IP	Inverter-Based Resources	FAC-002-3	R2	GO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	FAC-003-4	R3, R6, R7	GO, TO
Québec Specific	Facility Ratings	FAC-008-5	R1, R2	GO
Québec Specific	Facility Ratings	FAC-008-5	R3	TO
ERO Enterprise IP	Facility Ratings	FAC-008-5	R6, R8	GO, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	MOD-032-1	R1	PA, TP
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	MOD-032-1	R2	BA, GO, LSE, RP, TO, TSP
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	MOD-033-2	R1	PA
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	PER-005-2	R2, R3, R4	TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	PRC-005-6	R3	DP, GO, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	PRC-006-NPCC-2	R3	DP, TO
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	PRC-006-NPCC-2	R10	GO
ERO Enterprise IP	Inverter-Based Resources	PRC-024-2	R1, R2	GO
Québec Specific	Stability Studies	TPL-001-4	R2	PA, TP
ERO Enterprise IP	Stability Studies	TPL-001-4	R4, R6	PA, TP
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	TPL-007-3 (Until 3/30/2023)	R2	PA, TP

Table 2: Actively Monitored Standards and Requirements for 2023				
Québec Specific	Gaps in Program Execution	TPL-007-4 (Effective 4/1/2023)	R2	PA, TP

IV. Compliance Monitoring

A. Compliance Audits

Compliance Audits are conducted according to the schedule set forth in the Québec Implementation Plan. The Annual Audit Plan for this 2023 Québec Implementation Plan is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Audit plan for 2023			
On-site CIP and Operations & Planning Audit			
Registered Entity	Acronym	Functions Audited	Audit Date
Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie	HQT	DP, PA, TO, TP, TSP	September 18 – 22, 2023
Off-site Operations & Planning Audits			
Registered Entity	Acronym	Functions Audited	Audit Date
Rio Tinto Alcan	RTA	DP, GO, GOP, TO	TBD

B. Self-Certification

NPCC, as authorized or requested by the Régie, may implement check the box Self-Certifications or Guided Self-Certifications on a quarterly basis. The Self-Certification notification from NPCC will identify whether the Self-Certification applies to the entire Reliability Standard or whether it applies to specific requirements and/or sub-requirements. The notification will also identify whether evidence should accompany the Self-Certification and will provide a specific amount of time to respond to the Self-Certification.

NPCC is not identifying waivers to Self-Certifications in 2023. However, NPCC does not have any planned Self-Certifications for 2023.

C. Spot Checks

NPCC, as authorized or requested by the Régie, may initiate a Spot Check at any time. NPCC will provide the registered entity at least 20 days advance notice of a Spot Check.

D. Non-Compliance Self-Reporting

A registered entity shall submit a Non-Compliance Self-Report **at the time the registered entity becomes aware that it is not complying** or may not have complied with a Reliability Standard declared in effect by the Régie, or that a change in the severity of a previously reported non-

compliance has occurred. Reports will be made through the Régie's *Système de Surveillance de la Conformité au Québec* (SSCQ).

Registered entities should include sufficient information in Self-Reports to permit NPCC to assess the non-compliance and the risk it poses to the reliability of the electric power transmission system. This must include a description, scope, and root cause(s) of the non-compliance. Self-Reports should also include a comprehensive description of any mitigation measures and whether they have concluded or are still in progress. The mitigation measures must correct the issue, address the contributing cause(s), and prevent recurrence.

E. Periodic Data Submittals

Registered entities shall provide Periodic Data Submittals (PDS) for the Reliability Standard requirements and by the deadlines provided in Table 4.

However, 2023 PDS are not required for any Reliability Standard that is not identified in this Implementation Plan.

Table 4: 2023 Periodic Data Submittal Schedule

Reliability Standard	Requirement	Text	Function	Submit To	Submittal Frequency	Due Dates
BAL-003-2	R1	Each Frequency Response Sharing Group (FRSG) or Balancing Authority that is not a member of a FRSG shall achieve an annual Frequency Response Measure (FRM) (as calculated and reported in accordance with Attachment A) that is equal to or more negative than its Frequency Response Obligation (FRO) to ensure that sufficient Frequency Response is provided by each FRSG or BA that is not a member of a FRSG to maintain Interconnection Frequency Response equal to or more negative than the Interconnection Frequency Response Obligation.	BA	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Annually	Per dates as detailed in BAL-003-2 Reliability Standards Attachment A Timeline for Balancing Authority Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Settings Activities
EOP-004-4	R2	Each Responsible Entity shall report events specified in EOP-004-4 Attachment 1 to the entities specified per their event reporting Operating Plan by the later of 24 hours of recognition of meeting an event type threshold for reporting or by the end of the Responsible Entity's next business day (4 p.m. local time will be considered the end of the business day).	See Standard	NERC	Event driven as per R2	Within 24 hours of recognition of meeting an event type threshold for reporting or by the end of the next business day if the event occurs on a weekend
EOP-008-2	R8	Each Reliability Coordinator, Balancing Authority, and Transmission Operator that has experienced a loss of its primary or backup functionality and that anticipates that the loss of primary or backup functionality will last for more than six calendar months shall provide a plan to its Regional Entity within six calendar months of the date when the functionality is lost showing how it will re-establish primary or backup functionality.	RC/BA/TOP	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Event driven as per R8	Within six calendar months of the date when the functionality is lost
FAC-003-4	C.1.4	The applicable Transmission Owner and applicable Generator Owner will submit a quarterly report to its Regional Entity, or the Regional Entity's designee, identifying all Sustained Outages of applicable lines operated within their Rating and all Rated Electrical Operating Conditions as determined by the applicable Transmission Owner or applicable Generator Owner to have been caused by vegetation, except as excluded in footnote 2, and include as a minimum the following: ...	TO/GO	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Quarterly, but only if there are FAC-003 events in the quarter.	Within 20 days after the end of the quarter AND only if there was a qualifying event in the previous quarter
PRC-002-2	R12	Each Transmission Owner and Generator Owner shall, within 90-calendar days of the discovery of a failure of the recording capability for the SER, FR or DDR data, either: • Restore the recording capability, or • Submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the Regional Entity and implement it.	TO/GO	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Event driven as per R12	Within 90 calendar days of the discovery of a failure of the recording capability for the SER, FR or DDR data
PRC-023-4	R5	Each Transmission Owner, Generator Owner, and Distribution Provider that sets transmission line relays according to Requirement R1 criterion 12 shall provide an updated list of the circuits associated with those relays to its Regional Entity at least once each calendar year, with no more than 15 months between reports, to allow the ERO to compile a list of all circuits that have protective relay settings that limit circuit capability.	TO/GO/DP	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Annually, but only if the entity chooses to set relays using Criterion 12 of R1	If the entity chooses to set relays on circuits according to Criterion 12 of R1, the entity must at least once each calendar year, with no more than 15 months between reports, provide the updated list to NPCC.
PRC-023-4	R6.2	Provide the list of circuits to all Regional Entities, Reliability Coordinators, Transmission Owners, Generator Owners, and Distribution Providers within its Planning Coordinator area within 30 calendar days of the establishment of the initial list and within 30 calendar days of any changes to that list.	PA	NPCC and Régie through SSCQ	Event driven as per R6.2	Within 30 calendar days of the establishment of the initial list and within 30 days of any changes to list

V. NPCC Submission Attestation

NPCC attests that this 2023 Québec Implementation Plan is both necessary and sufficient at this time for the compliance monitoring of the Reliability Standards in effect in Québec.